

Message Text

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21 16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 AID-20 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

DRC-01 CG-00 /154 W

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R 040725Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2115

INFO AMCONSUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6583

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, AS

SUBJ: GOA CONTROLS ON AVIATION FUEL FOR
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

1. EMBASSY INFORMED CONFIDENTIALLY BY PRIVATE SOURCE
THAT GOA WILL WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS ESTABLISH CONTROL
OVER ALL BUNKERING OF SHIPS AND OVERSEAS AIRCRAFT.
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CONTROLS WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY
DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY.

2. EMBASSY SOURCE INDICATES SIR LENOX HEWITT HAS
EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER UNDERSTANDING QANTAS
FUEL SUPPLIES SAN FRANCISCO AND HONOLULU HAVE BEEN
SHARPLY CURTAILED WHILE COMPETING AMERICAN CARRIERS ON
WEST COAST-AUSTRALIA RUN ARE RECEIVING SUFFICIENT FUEL
TO FLY NORMAL SCHEDULES WITH RESULTANT DIVERSION
TRAFFIC
FROM QANTAS TO AMERICAN CARRIERS.

3. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED INFORMALLY WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES
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AMERICAN CARRIERS WHO CONFIRM IT IS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT

QANTAS HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS CUTBACK DUE TO DIFFICULTIES OF ITS SUPPLIER UNDERSTOOD TO BE TEXACO. ALSO CONFIRM THAT DUE TO MORE FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR SUPPLIERS, AMERICAN CARRIERS RECEIVING MORE GENERAOUS FUEL ALLOCATION.

4. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT APPEARS PROBABLE REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT GOA CONTROLS OVER FUEL IS DESIGNED AMONG OTHER THINGS TO GIVE GOA BARGAINING LEVERAGE TO PRESS FOR SOLUTION TO QANTAS FUEL PROBLEM IN HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO. TIMING OF GOA ACTION MAY ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY POSTPONEMENT OF US-GOA AVIATION TALKS AT WHICH GOA HAD HOPED TO RAISE THIS PROBLEM.

5. WHILE EMBASSY EMPHASIZES ITS INFORMATION RE GOA INTENTIONS UNOFFICIAL, IT IS BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE. ASSUMING GOA PROCEEDS AS IT APPARENTLY NOW INTENDS, THERE APPEARS STONG POSSIBILITY THAT UNLESS MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO GIVE QANTAS EQUALITY OF TREATMENT WITH U.S. CARRIERS AT HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO, THE ALTERNATIVE MAY WELL BE UNEQUAL TREATMENT FOR U.S. CARRIERS IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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